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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”

Statement submitted by All Christians Welfare Association, Asistencia Legal por los Derechos Humanos, Asociación Civil, Asociación Española para el Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos AEDIDH, Associated Country Women of the World, Autre Vie, Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha, Community Alliances for Drug Free Youth, Cooperazione Internazionale, Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience, Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative, Institute of Cultural Affairs International, and National Federation of Youth Organizations in Bangladesh, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

Women, peace, strategic partnership, and joint activities

We are women who represent the civilian leaders of Ukraine, Georgia, and Poland, living in the area of currently rising geopolitical tension that have united into a geopolitical civic alliance of women to participate in the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. We are strongly committed to women's empowerment and enhancing their role as key decision makers in building world peace to ensure fair social and economic processes in each of the countries through gender balance.

We appreciate the great contribution of the world community and recognize the significance of efforts undertaken by the United Nations in preserving world peace. We commend everyone involved in drafting the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security, as well as the people who created, approved, and are implementing all international documents intended to prevent warfare on Earth.

We do not support the commitment of the elite in some countries to restore the so-called national equity, since it leads to aggression, annexation and occupation of territories, ethnic wars, death of thousands of people, and ruined lives of millions of families. As a result of the determination of our mutual neighbour to achieve the "national equity" that is comprehensible only for this country, in the last two years our countries have lost more than 45,000 citizens, and more than 2,000,000 people have become refugees and temporarily displaced. There are about one million migrants living in Poland, including hundreds of thousands of immigrants from Ukraine.

Approximately 173,000 children live along the "contact line" in East Ukraine and during the last five years, they have been at risk of shelling while going to school every day. According to international experts, at least 40 thousand people's lives will be sacrificed to demine the frontline of Ukraine. Right now, 13 ongoing decades-long armed conflicts take place in the world. Innocent people die every day across the world. Wars cause common human suffering and unite our nations in aspiration to resolve the multi-faceted conflicts and restore peace in the world.

Why does the desire to help each other and sense of compassion arise only at the moment of wars and sufferings? Why is it so difficult to stop the ruthless killing of people?

This year, world leaders at the General Assembly of the United Nations focused the attention of the international community on the significance of demonstrating true leadership nature of large and developed countries with a view to support and facilitate weak countries. Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, noted that today, we unfortunately we face "fake leadership" on part of successful countries that exploit weaknesses of other countries for their own profit. The President of Ukraine said that nowadays, the price of a human life is only \$10 – the cost of the bullet that kills people.

We would like to draw your attention to Gugutiantkari, a Georgian village that is located close to the occupied region of Tskhinvali, south Ossetia. When the Russian occupation forces recommenced the illegal installation of barbed-wire fences, they ordered a local villager to demolish his house. The Georgian local, an ordinary man who was frightened of death, destroyed his parental house, his own life, his past and roots, and was left alone, face-to-face with an uncertain future. This case has recently become a symbol of human tragedy and the Georgian nation was shocked by this example of lawlessness and cynical violence.

The modern world is still ruled by men while we, women, just perform administrative functions to satisfy their male ambitions. Why don't we fight more actively in our own communities to minimize the impact of the male aggression or their insensitivity? Why don't we take a lead in our own communities? Why are we still accepting and counting on the men inflicting violence on other people and mankind? Why is this problem in the twenty-first century still affecting us and the people of the world?

We are living right now in the warfare zone and a situation of post-traumatic stress. No one else but us knows about the state of women, military women and children, the problems of refugees and temporarily displaced persons, migrants, unemployment of thousands of people, and social disintegration. All these people need guaranteed social welfare and security.

We call on female world leaders, female civilian leaders, and all the women of the world to assume responsibility for the people affected by armed conflict. In this regard, we call on men and women to come together to solve the priority world problems and serve as catalysts for reforms in their own countries.

Right now we observe a dangerous rise of populism, nativism, xenophobia, and racism. We need a new model of growth, based on the basic morals and principles. The world needs leaders with great responsibility and empathy. We strongly believe that women will be the pacifying force.

Millions of children worldwide are affected by armed conflict. They are confronted with physical violence, exploitation, fear, and trauma. We need a safe, inclusive world for future generations, so that they can grow up celebrating diversity. Children who have respect for other nationalities, cultures, and religions will make gender equality a reality.

We call on men and women to create a new culture of cohabitation in their own communities that is based on respect of identities and awareness of each other's values.

We suggest that women develop their own model of modern, harmoniously-developing, and prosperous world order, in which human value and man's life are the fundamentals of fair social and economic processes of each country in the world.

We call on all women to overcome internal doubts and be the balance for the geopolitical state of the world, as well as become peacekeepers of Earth.

We should remember that only in an equal partnership with men has the world opportunities to develop in a balanced and harmonious manner.

National culture of our countries is the necessary condition establishing appropriate balance between the system of decision-making, economic development, and social well-being.

Through mutual consensus of men and women, we have discovered an effective way to achieve and maintain peace. Preservation of authenticity and initial culture in the uniformity of diversity, appreciation of each other's value, and development of the sense of compassion towards others is the path that each nation should tread to sustain the world balance.

We request that representatives of educational sphere of all countries prioritize the development of humanity and sense of compassion for other people.

Right now we, the women of Ukraine, Georgia, and Poland, are obliging the system of government of all countries to ensure career growth only for leaders who facilitate peace in their countries through decisions that decrease the level of aggression and violence.

We request that the Secretary-General of the United Nations convey to the world leaders the importance of developing participatory management and female democratic leadership that will promote development of better natural qualities of women and preserve geopolitical balance on Earth.

Dear ladies, let us assume responsibility for ensuring peace in the world and its perfection!

“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you!” should become a basic postulate of women’s movement in the world. We are obliged to move forward along this difficult and arduous way towards success in this high and responsible mission.

Institute of Cultural Affairs International

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Community Alliances for Drug Free Youth

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Coordination des associations et des particuliers pour la liberté de conscience

Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative

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World Humanitarian Drive

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